

English 9: Multicultural Literature

2010–11

Teacher: Jean Gritter
Classroom: F-11

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Class Website: www.msgritter.com

English 9 is a course designed to help you understand the major genres (types) of literature, different approaches to composition (writing), basic elements of research, and the development of public speaking skills. We will work with literature by authors from several different cultures, which will include short stories, poetry, drama, essays, and novels. This will help you develop a strong foundation for future work in many subjects – no matter what your interests, or what you choose to do after high school, you will need to be able to read carefully, write clearly, and organize your ideas. That is what we will work on this year.

proficiency: *noun.* Skill or expertise.

This class is based on the proficiency model, which means that there are specific learning targets that you are expected to meet this year. Everything you do in this class will either prepare you to meet a learning target (Proficiency Tasks, or PT), or assess whether or not you have met that learning target (Proficiency Assessments, or PA). You will have multiple opportunities to show your proficiency in each of the required areas; **proof of proficiency in each area is required to earn credit for the class.** Simply showing up for class and turning in assignments is not enough — you must show that you have mastered each of the required learning targets for the course.

West Albany High School English 9 Curriculum Learning Targets:

After successfully completing English 9 at West Albany High School, students will have demonstrated proficiency in the following areas:

WRITING

1. Writing compositions with a clear and coherent introduction and conclusion, which include a thesis statement and summary of main points.
2. Writing a clear, coherent, focused, and well-supported thesis statement.
3. Grade level use of writing conventions and mechanics.
4. Writing well-organized paragraphs, including a topic sentence and appropriate and sufficient support.
5. Use of concrete details and descriptive language appropriate to writing purpose.
6. Citing and documenting relevant sources used in research.

READING

1. Identifying and using appropriate key details to understand and analyze text.
2. Making insightful textual connections to: self, text, and society/culture.
3. Using knowledge of word origins, contextual clues, and other strategies to determine meanings of words.
4. Demonstrating ability to predict and make inferences supported by grade level text.
5. Identifying and analyzing the elements of plot and structure

Grading: Your final course grade is calculated as follows:

Proficiency Task scores = 30%

Proficiency Assessment scores = 70%

Your Proficiency Assessments will be kept in your Proficiency Portfolio in the classroom; I highly recommend you keep all returned Proficiency Task assignments until semester grades are given. Should something happen to my computer/grade book, or if there is a discrepancy of any kind, you will have evidence of points earned. If you choose to throw away your assignments, it is at your own risk.

Materials: You are required to bring the materials necessary for class participation to class every day. This includes:

- notebook paper, binder, pens and/or pencils;
- your free reading book (see below);
- all work/handouts/notes related to what we're currently working on in class;
- textbook or class novel, as needed.

You need to have a method of organization for your work and handouts for this class. If you do not have a system already in place, which you can clearly explain to me, I will expect you to have a "Blue Day" binder with a section in it for English.

You will receive a **class calendar** each month, on which you'll receive stamps for work completed. Your calendar should always be the first page in the English section of your binder. You'll turn your calendar in on the last class day of every month (at the end of class, in case you get stamps during class that day), when you'll receive the next month's calendar.

Reading: We will spend the first 15-20 minutes of every class period reading silently. Daily points will be given for independent reading. You must bring a book of interest to read EVERY DAY. You will be accountable for at least ONE book every six weeks.

Class Guidelines: You are expected to be prepared for every class by completing the assignments on time and bringing all required materials to class. You are expected to behave in a way that promotes a positive learning environment for everyone in the class.

Ask questions! Asking real questions will provide you with real answers you'll actually remember and be able to use, for this class and well into the future. Finish as much work as possible during class so you can ask questions, of me and of your classmates. Finish all uncompleted work at home in order to be ready for the next class.

→ **Following an absence, it is your responsibility to get missing assignments** and complete all required work. You will work with an assigned partner in this class; when you return to class from an absence, check with your partner about the work you missed. Also check the class website.

→ Absences do not excuse you from, or provide an extension on, work assigned before your absence. For excused absences, you are allowed the number of classes you missed plus one to turn in work assigned while you were gone. If an absence is due to a school function, or otherwise prearranged, you are expected to get work BEFORE you are gone.

Class Website: Most handouts and upcoming deadlines, as well as other useful information, can be found on the class website: **www.msgritter.com**. Also, feel free to email me with any

questions you may have: jean.gritter@albany.k12.or.us. I will generally get back to you within one school day (I don't check school email on weekends/holidays).

Cell phones, headphones, etc.: It is district policy that cell phones, music devices, headphones, etc. are not allowed in the classroom. Cell phones may only be used outside the building between classes and at lunch time. If you have a cell phone or other electronic device in class, **whether it is turned on or not**, it will be confiscated and turned in to the office.

Food and Drink: Eating candy or any kind of food is not allowed in the classroom. Water may be brought to class in a sealable bottle (anything that lists any ingredient other than water is not considered water). No pop, juice, sports drinks, etc. are allowed in class.

Other details: I recommend that you bring your own art materials such as colored pencils, glue, rulers, markers, scissors, etc. A very limited supply of these and other materials are available in the classroom for use **ONLY** if permission has been given. Materials must be used carefully and respectfully; if materials are wasted or left untidy, they will no longer be made available. I have reading books available for you to borrow, as well; however, taking a book without first checking it out will result in disciplinary action for theft.

I have read and understand the class guidelines and expectations for English 9, as well as the WAHS Plagiarism Policy.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Please print student name: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____